

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

September 15, 2026

SUBJECT:

Area 1 Middle Level Realignment Research and Exploration Request

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The administration seeks Board approval to conduct research, planning, and hold community input meetings regarding potential middle school redesign opportunities in Area 1. The research process will examine the feasibility of transitioning Area 1 middle schools (AIS, KMS, and SMS) to unified grades 6th – 8th grade campuses, implementing sixth-grade academies, establishing thematic academy programming, and utilizing a school-within-a-school model to expand educational opportunities for students at all Area 1 middle schools.

As part of this process, the administration will study enrollment trends, facility utilization, student distribution patterns, attendance zones, and demographic considerations. Community input will be gathered through stakeholder engagement opportunities to assess potential programmatic and organizational structures that best position Area 1 schools for long-term success and improved student outcomes.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Following the collection of public input and surveys of the affected schools, further administrative recommendations will be made and presented to the Board at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant approval for the administration to conduct research, stakeholder engagement, and planning related to Area 1 middle school realignment, including sixth-grade academies, thematic academy programming, school-within-a-school models, unified grades 6-8 middle school configurations, and potential student assignment and attendance zone adjustments, and to return to the Board with recommendations for future consideration.

ATTACHMENT:

Area 1 Middle Level Realignment Presentation

PREPARED BY:

Paige Day



Area 1 Middle Level Realignment

Request for Board Approval for Research and Exploration

Purpose of Request

Request to Explore Area 1 Middle School Redesign for 27-28

Aiken Intermediate School · Kennedy Middle School · Schofield Middle School

- Convert Aiken Intermediate ,Kennedy Middle School, and Schofield Middle School to traditional 6 – 8 grade configurations
- Explore magnet and thematic programming opportunities at all Area 1 middle schools
- Examine a school-within-a-school model for academies
- Evaluate expansion of all Area 1 middle schools to grades 6-8
- Study implementation of sixth grade academies at all Area 1 middle schools
- Consider attendance zone adjustments and student redistribution
- Request Board permission to proceed with planning and stakeholder engagement

Why Now?

Current Challenges

- Steadily declining middle school enrollments and shifting student enrollment patterns
- Increasing competition from school choice options – with a heavy impact on middle school enrollment
- Demographic and subgroup imbalances across Area 1 middle schools
- Academic achievement gaps between schools

Potential Opportunities

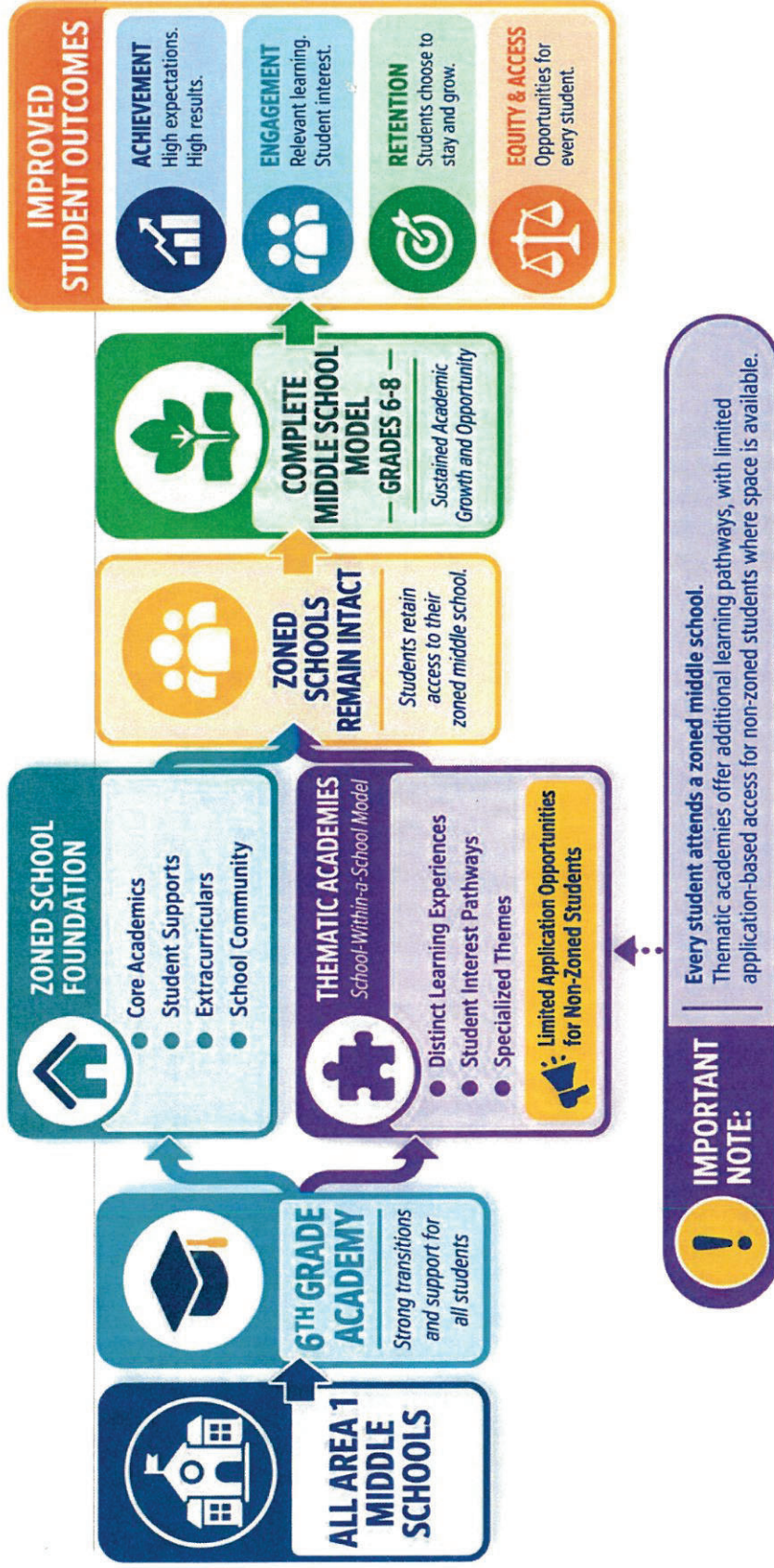
- Expand innovative educational experiences
- Strengthen middle school transitions
- Increase student engagement and achievement
- Improve retention of Area 1 students in ACPSD schools
- Create more access to high-quality programs

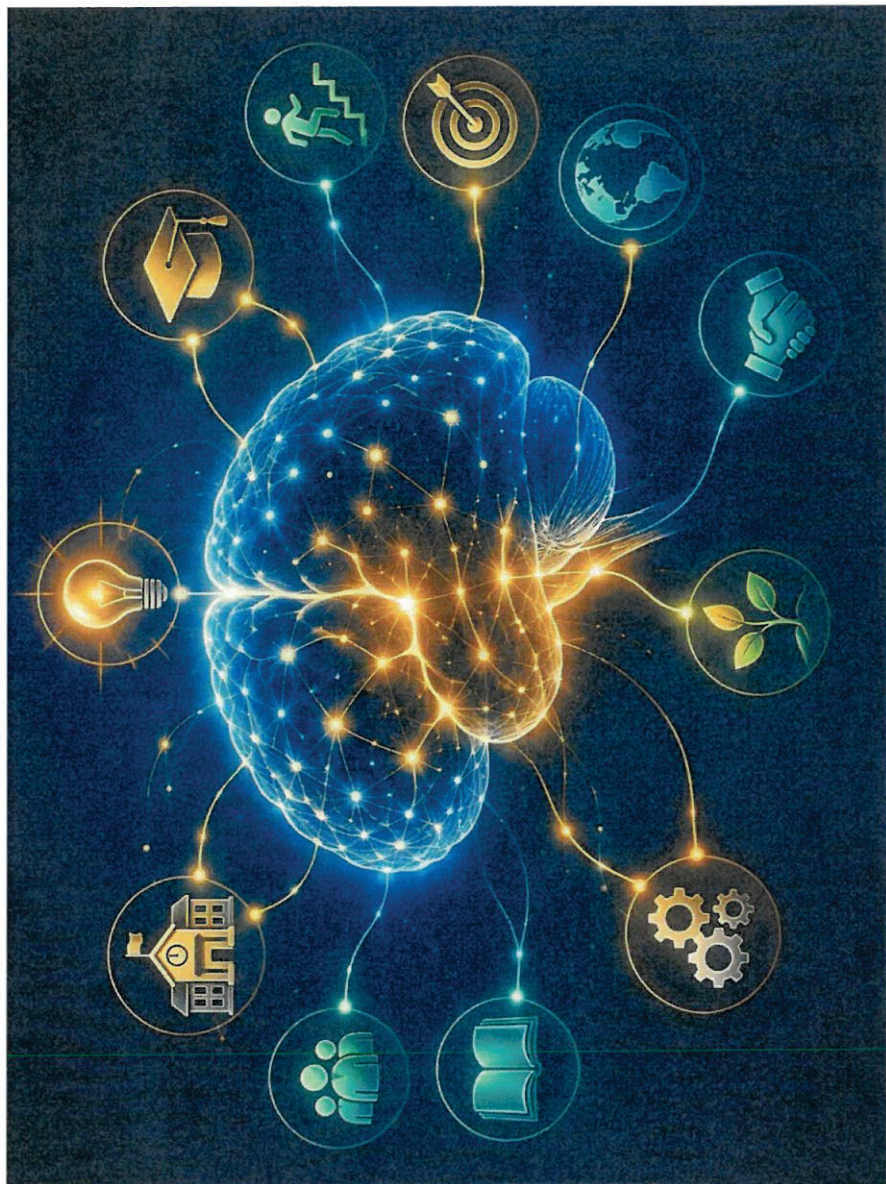
Vision for Area 1 Middle Schools



PROGRAM DESIGN OVERVIEW

Preserving zoned schools while expanding opportunities for all students





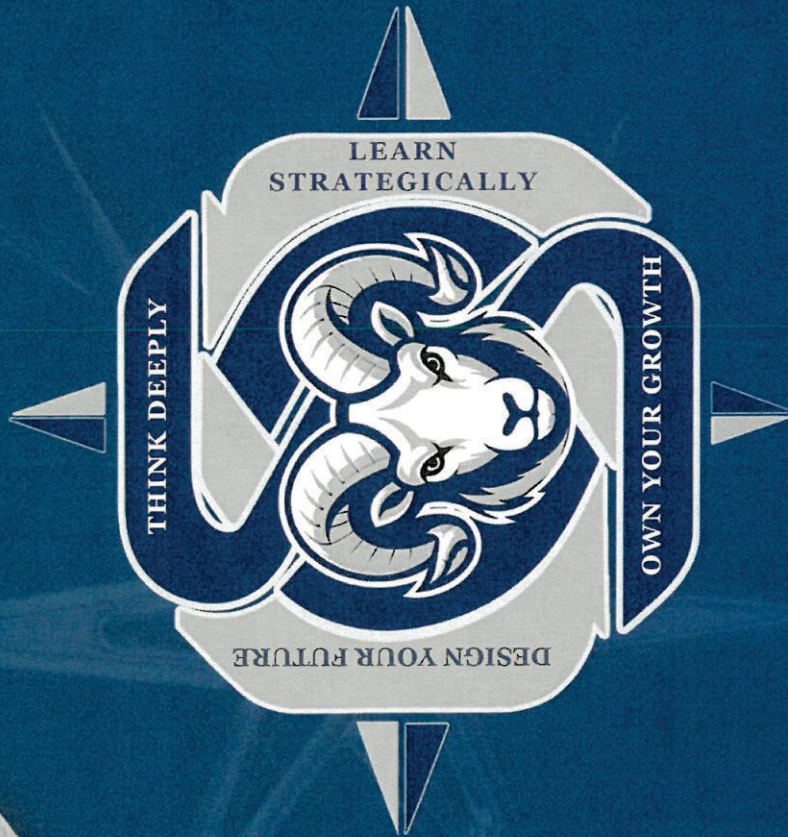
TRANSFORMING SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL TO:



SCHOFIELD MIDDLE AVID COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY



PREPARED TO LEARN. EMPOWERED TO LEAD



THE SCHOFIELD AVID ADVANTAGE:
**WHY A SMS AVID COLLEGE & CAREER
ACADEMY?**

AVID

Vehicle to provide a strong academic foundation



CTE

Career exploration classes to provide access to
more opportunities and to establish a clearer
purpose



AGENCY

Increasing student ownership;
transforming passive learners to
active directors of their success



THE SCHOFIELD AVID ADVANTAGE:

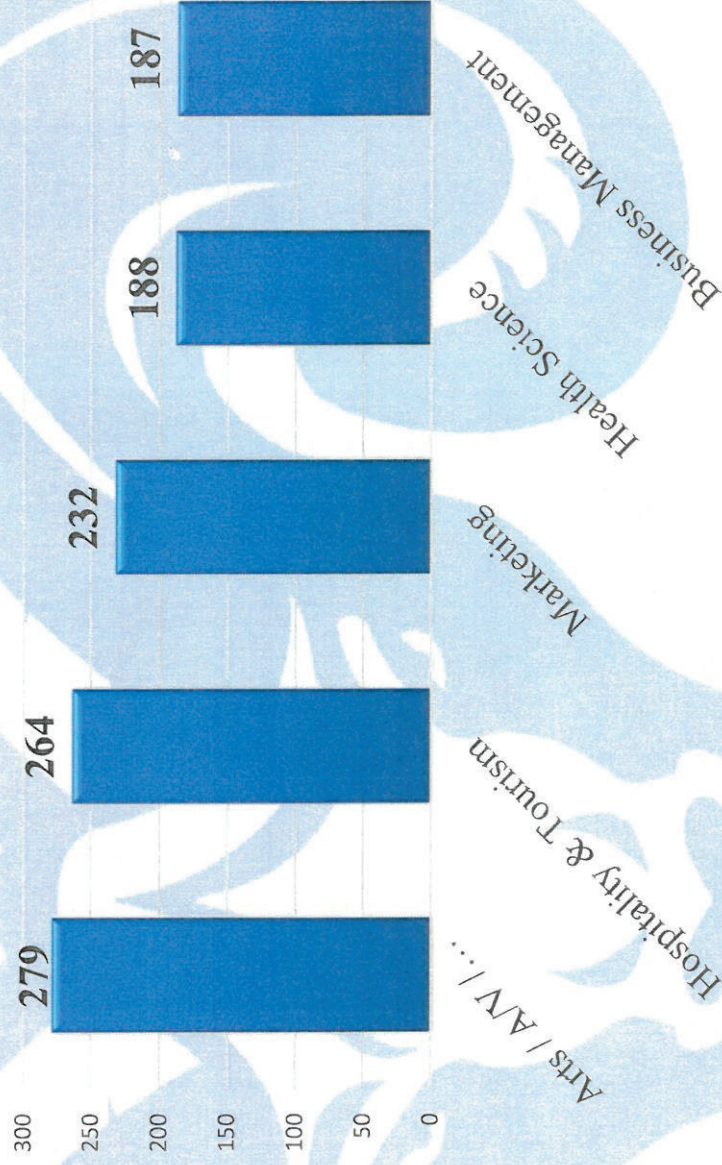
SMS STUDENTS WANT RELEVANT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

510 student responses
(6th – 8th grades)

Career awareness is limited –
Interest is not.

94% Would or might join a
career event, club, or
field trip

78% Know little or nothing
about CTE



THE SCHOFIELD AVID ADVANTAGE:

WHY SCHOFIELD?



SMS has established a solid foundation
for fertile growth.

- ✓ AVID School-wide Site of Distinction
- ✓ AVID Highly Certified Site

- ✓ SC Report Card Rating from 33, Below Average; to 43 Average

- ✓ Exited ATSI state list for students with disability

THESE OUTCOMES DEMONSTRATE THAT SCHOFIELD CAN BUILD SYSTEMS, STRENGTHEN INSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVE STUDENT RESULTS.
THE PROPOSED ACADEMY WILL LEVERAGE THAT MOMENTUM!

THE SMS GRADUATE-READY COMPASS



A shared direction
for every classroom



Four memorable
student commitments



One schoolwide
language for growth



Multiple pathways
toward future readiness



COLLEGE • CAREER • MILITARY • COMMUNITY • LIFE



PREPARED TO LEARN. EMPOWERED TO LEAD.



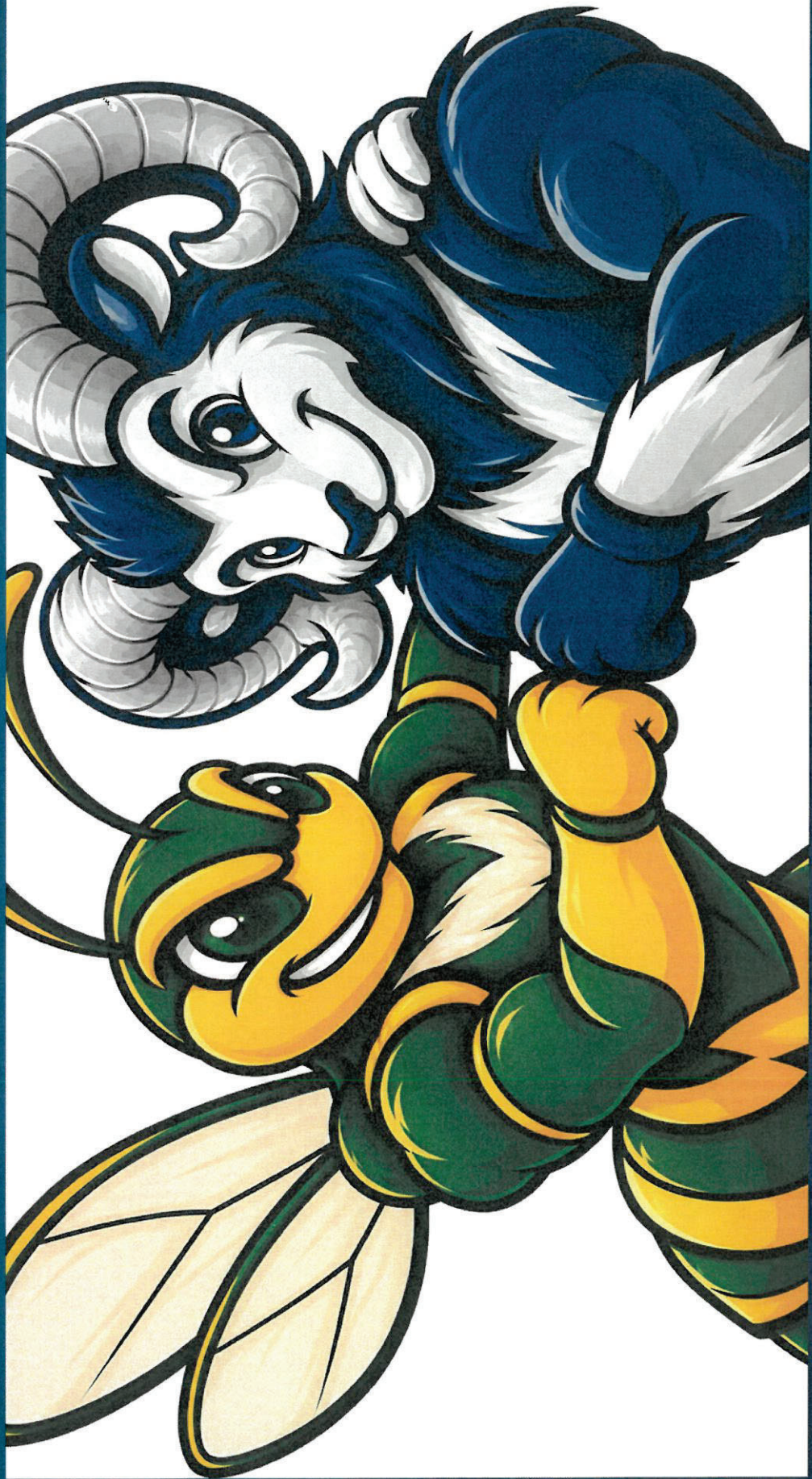
THIS PARTNERSHIP CREATES A SEAMLESS TRANSITION TO...



★ **SMS AVID** ★

PREPARED TO LEARN. EMPOWERED TO LEAD.

COLLEGE • CAREER • MILITARY • COMMUNITY • LIFE



SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL CTE/AVID WHEEL

EXPLORE TODAY. LEARN SKILLS. LEAD TOMORROW.



- ✓ Advancement Individual Determination
- ✓ College Readiness
- ✓ Organization
- ✓ Academic Excellence
- ✓ WICOR Strategies
- ✓ College & Career Exploration
- ✓ Leadership Development



BUILDING PATHWAYS.
CREATING FUTURES.



CTE + AVID = OPPORTUNITY
Preparing Schofield Students for
Aiken High School and Beyond!

ELEMENTARY
Career Awareness

SCHOFIELD MIDDLE
Explore, Learn, Lead.

AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL
Prepare, Succeed.

COLLEGE • CAREER • MILITARY • ENTREPRENEURSHIP



SCHOFIELD
MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL BRIDGE TO HIGH SCHOOL

HEALTH SCIENCE PATHWAY
EXPLORATION TODAY. OPPORTUNITIES TOMORROW.

PREPARING
TODAY'S STUDENTS
FOR TOMORROW'S
HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS.

SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH – 8TH GRADE



INTRO TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Explore healthcare careers
- Learn basic medical terminology
- Develop hands-on skills
- Understand the healthcare system
- Prepare for high school pathways

hosa HEALTH OCCUPATIONS
STUDENTS OF AMERICA

Schofield Middle School Chapter

- Leadership Development
- Career Exploration
- Community Service
- Competitive Events
- Build a Network of Future Healthcare Leaders

HEALTH SCIENCE PATHWAY AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL 9TH – 12TH GRADE



- ✓ Human Body Systems
- ✓ Medical Terminology
- ✓ Patient Care Skills
- ✓ Clinical Procedures
- ✓ Work-Based Learning Opportunities
- ✓ Industry Credential Preparation
- ✓ College and Career Readiness

INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS EARN. APPLY. GET AHEAD.



Patient Care Technician (PCT)

- Basic patient care
- Vital signs and monitoring
- Infection control
- Patient safety
- In-demand in hospitals, long-term care, and clinical settings

Phlebotomy

- Blood collection techniques
- Specimen handling
- Laboratory procedures
- Patient interaction
- Essential skill in multiple healthcare settings



EKG (Electrocardiogram)

- Cardiac anatomy and rhythm interpretation
- EKG lead placement
- Patient monitoring
- Critical patient care skill
- Used in hospitals, clinics, and emergency medical services



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES COLLEGE. CAREER. LIFE.



- Nurse (RN/LPN)
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Radiologic Technologist
- Surgical Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- And More!

POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS

- Technical College (e.g., Aiken Technical College)
- Four-Year University
- Healthcare Apprenticeships
- Direct Workforce Entry



KNOWLEDGE
TODAY



SKILLS
TOMORROW



OPPORTUNITIES
FOR LIFE



STRONGER
COMMUNITIES



SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE. OPPORTUNITY. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.



SCHOFIELD
MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL BRIDGE TO HIGH SCHOOL

— FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE — CULINARY ARTS PATHWAY —
EXPLORE TODAY. OPPORTUNITIES TOMORROW.

PREPARING
TODAY'S STUDENTS
FOR TOMORROW'S
HOSPITALITY
PROFESSIONALS.

SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
6TH – 8TH GRADE



EXPLORE
LEARN
LEAD
BELONG
SUCCEED



INTRODUCTION TO
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SERVICE SCIENCE 1
(7TH GRADE)



INTRODUCTION TO
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SERVICE SCIENCE 2
(8TH GRADE)

AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL
9TH – 12TH GRADE



SKILLED
PREPARED
PURPOSE DRIVEN



**CULINARY ARTS
MANAGEMENT**

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS
EARN. APPLY. GET AHEAD.



ServSafe
Manager™



ServSafe
Handler®



ProStart
National Restaurant Association
Educational Foundation

CTE PATHWAY
HOSPITALITY, EVENTS AND TOURISM



HOSPITALITY



EVENTS



TOURISM



AND MORE!

*Same Path.
Bigger Opportunities.*



REAL SKILLS
TODAY.



REAL
OPPORTUNITIES.



REAL CAREERS.



STRONGER
COMMUNITIES.



SCHOFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE. OPPORTUNITY. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

Next Steps

After Board Approval, ACPSD will

- Hold Area 1 community input meetings to gain stakeholder input.
- Research thematic opportunities at Aiken Intermediate School and Kennedy Middle School.
- Rezone Area 1 middle schools into three 6th – 8th grade campuses.
- Determine additional teacher allocations and supplemental programming materials to support thematic programs & restructuring at all Area 1 middle schools.

Requested Board Action

We are requesting for the board to authorize the administration to explore and develop recommendations regarding Area 1 middle school rezoning and programming to include sixth-grade academies, signature academic pathways, Area 1 middle level realignment to 6th – 8th grade campuses, and related student redistribution recommendations for implementation as early as the 27-28 school year.



Questions and Comments
